

REMARKS

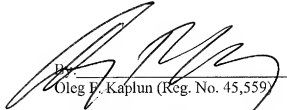
Claims 4, 10, and 16 have been amended. Claims 1-3, 9, 15 and 19 have been cancelled. The specification has been amended. Thus, claims 4-8, 10-14 and 16-18 are now pending in the present application. No new matter has been added.

The amendments to the claims have been made pursuant to the Examiner's suggestions in a telephone interview with Mr. Dervis Magistre (Reg. No. 41,172). The amendment to the specification has been made to correct an error in the English translation of priority the German Application Serial No. 199 41 868.3. This amendment is supported by the original PCT Application Serial No. PCT/EP00/08516, in which the U.S. was designated.

In view of the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all the presently pending claims are in condition for allowance. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, an early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____
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